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BOROUGH OF ST. IVES (HUNTS)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR 1971

1971

Mayor:
Councillor P. T. ANDERSON

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:
J. CALDWELL,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:
J. G. REESON,
F.I.A.S., M.I.P.H.E., M.B.I., C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:
I. PRICE

Meat Inspector:
A. WILKS
(resigned May 1971)

—— :: ——

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	2,326 acres
Rateable Value	£364,244
Value of Penny Rate	£3,562·8
Number of inhabited houses (*approx.*) .	2,399
Population	7,310

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE BOROUGH OF ST. IVES (HUNTS)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1971

Mr. Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the
Borough of St. Ives.

Your Worship and Members of the Council:-

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1971.

Vital Statistics

Population – The increase in the estimated mid-year population is more evident this year than it has ever been in recent times. During the past 12 months the figure has risen by 1,160 — almost four times the increase in any one year in the last decade. This brings the total number of residents in the Borough to 7,310.

Birth Rate – Despite the very considerable rise in population there were 20 fewer births credited to the Borough in 1971 compared with the previous year. The live birth rate shows a sharp fall from 22·2 per 1,000 population in 1970 to 16·3 this year. This is the lowest birth rate recorded in the last decade.

I am pleased to report that as in the last year there was only one still-birth recorded for St. Ives, giving a still-birth rate of 7 per 1,000 total live and still-births compared with 12 per 1,000 for England and Wales as a whole.

Death Rate – There were 50 residents of the Borough who died during the year — 7 less than in the previous year — giving a local adjusted death rate of 7·1 per 1,000 population compared with the national death rate of 11·6. This is the lowest death rate recorded for the town in recent years.

Infant Mortality – A very pleasing feature to report is the complete absence of infant mortality during 1971.

Infectious Disease – A considerable drop in the incidence of notifiable infectious disease is noted this year, there being only 14 cases in all.

8 cases of tuberculosis are included in this figure, 4 of these occurring in immigrant families.

Social Conditions

Hospital Facilities – We were gratified to learn in a letter from the Chairman of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board in December that planning of the new Huntingdon Hospital is in an advanced stage and that the Hospital Board has submitted an outline planning proposal to the Department of Health and Social Security giving a provisional assessment of the complete Huntingdon Hospital. It is envisaged that the new hospital will house a total bed compliment of around 500 beds allocated roughly as follows:-

General Acute	250
Obstetric	60
Geriatric	150
Psychiatric Acute	50
	510

It appears that the proposal for phase one of the new hospital will include a geriatric ward unit of at least 100 beds, plus a geriatric day hospital.

The Regional Hospital Board hope that a start will be made on the construction of phase one during 1973 and, subject to finance, it appears that there is no reason why construction of the complete hospital should not be carried out between 1975 and 1980.

It is hoped that the appropriate Government Department will make the necessary finance available.

Housing – The houses and flats at Thorndown Close (Hill Rise) were well on the way to completion by the end of the year, and it is anticipated they would be complete by the end of March 1972.

The bungalow for older citizens were commenced and will also be completed early in 1972.

Plans for old persons flatlets were completed, and it is hoped that construction will commence in the summer of 1972.

During the year, twenty-two houses were included in a Compulsory Purchase Order.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Reeson and all other Members of the Department's staff for their continuing support, and for all the work they have done during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES CALDWELL.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1971

Estimated mid-year population . . . 7,310

Live Births	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	65	65	130
Illegitimate	4	1	5
Totals	69	66	135

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	18·5
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (·88)	16·3
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) . . .	16·0

Still Births			
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	—	1	1

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	7
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total live and still-births (England and Wales) .	12

Deaths	20	30	50

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	6·8
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (1·04)	7·1
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales) .	11·6

Infant Mortality —

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—

Infant Mortality rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births) . . .	—
Infant Mortality rate (England and Wales) . . .	18

Table classifying deaths under age groups

Age	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Under 4 weeks	—	—	—
4 weeks and under 1 year	—	—	—
1 year and under 4 years	—	—	—
5 and under 14 years	—	—	—
15 and under 24 years	1	1	2
25 and under 34 years	1	—	1
35 and under 44 years	1	—	1
45 and under 54 years	1	6	7
55 and under 64 years	1	4	5
65 and under 74 years	8	4	12
75 years and over	7	15	22
Totals	20	30	50

The following table indicates the trend in population, birth and death rates for the Borough over the past five years :-

	1967	*1968*	*1969*	*1970*	*1971*
Population	5,170	5,500	5,860	6,150	7,310
Births					
Total live births	110	145	115	155	135
Crude birth rate	21·3	26·4	19·6	25·2	18·5
Area comparability factor	·88	·87	·88	·88	·88
Corrected birth rate	18·7	23·4	17·2	22·2	16·3
Birth rate (England and Wales)	17·2	16·9	16·3	16·0	16·0

Deaths

Total deaths	55	78	70	57	50
Crude death rate	10·6	14·2	11·9	9·3	6·8
Area comparability factor	1·2	1·1	1·07	1·04	1·04
Corrected death rate	12·7	15·6	12·7	9·7	7·1
Death rate (England and Wales)	11·2	11·9	11·9	11·7	11·6

Notifications of Infectious Disease during 1971

	Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	—
Diphtheria	—
Measles	4
Typhoid Fever	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Infective Jaundice	—
Food Poisoning	—
Dysentery	1
Acute Meningitis	—
Tuberculosis	8
Total	14

CAUSES OF DEATH
(Registrar General's List)

List No.	*Causes*	*Male*	*Female*
B19 (3)	Malignant Neoplasm. Stomach	1	—
B19 (7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2
B19 (8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	2

B19 (11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	—	5
B20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	—	1
B46 (4)	Multiple Sclerosis	—	1
B46 (5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	—	1
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	—
B28	Ischæmic Heart Disease	7	4
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	1	4
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	2	4
B46 (6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	—
B32	Pneumonia	3	3
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	—
B34	Peptic Ulcer	1	—
B46 (9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	—	1
B45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	—	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
BE48	All Other Accidents	1	—
	Total all Causes	20	30

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number of persons on Register at 31st December, 1971 ... 24

Pulmonary ... 21 Non-Pulmonary ... 3

Age Periods	New Cases - Diagnosed				New Cases - Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 . .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 . .	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 . .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 . .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 . .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 . .	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .	3	3	2	—	—	—	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) **Laboratory Facilities**

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area :-

Public Health Laboratory Service,
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.
(Tel. Cambridge 55526)

Public Analyst,
(S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.),
Tenison Road, Cambridge.
(Tel. Cambridge 52097)

(b) **Ambulance Services**

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders.

(c) **Home Nursing**

Nurse/Midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council carried out home nursing and attended maternity cases in the Borough.

(d) **Clinic and Treatment Centres**

(i) The following services were provided by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council :-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Infant Welfare	Children (0 – 5 years)	Every Friday. 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. 1st and 3rd Wednesday in month. 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	Health Centre, Ramsey Road, St. Ives.
Dental	Pre-school and school children	By appointment.	Health Centre, Ramsey Road, St. Ives.
	Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers	By appointment.	Health Centre, Nursery Road, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services were provided by the Regional Hospital Board :-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. and 2.00 – 3.00 p.m.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Disease	All cases	Tuesday from 2.00 – 6.00 p.m. Thursday from 2.00 – 6.00 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Males	Monday from 5.00 p.m. Wednesday from 5.30 p.m.	Clinic 5, Outpatients Department, Peterborough Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
Females	Tuesday from 10.30 a.m. Thursday from 2.00 p.m.	

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service :-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and school children	By appointment.	Child Health Centre, Nursery Road, Huntingdon.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopædic, Obstetrical, Pædiatric, Gynæcological and Dental Out-Patients Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) **Hospital Services**

Fever – Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment were admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough and Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Maternity Unit, Primrose Lane, Huntingdon and Maternity Hospital, Mill Road, Cambridge.

(f) **Family Planning Clinics**

Huntingdon Held at the Child Health Centre, Nursery Road, Huntingdon.
Every Wednesday.
7.00 – 8.30 p.m.

	(To make an appointment call at the Clinic or telephone Huntingdon 53398 after 7.00 p.m. Wednesday evenings ONLY)
St. Ives	Held at the Child Health Centre, Ramsey Road, St. Ives. Every Monday. 9.30 – 11.00 a.m. *(To make an appointment call at the Clinic or telephone St. Ives 62622 during sessions ONLY)*
St. Neots	Held at the Child Health Centre, Almond Road, St. Neots. Tuesday evenings. 7.00 – 9.00 p.m. 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings. 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. *(To make an appointment telephone Huntingdon 72261 during session times ONLY)*

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1971

WATER SUPPLIES

In spite of the additional houses being built in the Borough, and the subsequent need for additional water, the Cambridge Water Company has been able to maintain an adequate and satisfactory supply.

It is now proposed to lay a new main from the Tower to supply the northern end of the development.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The three disc filter machine was installed and, in spite of " teething troubles ", it did help to solve the sludge problem which had become very acute. Modifications and improvements are made periodically to keep abreast of modern needs.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The scheme for surface water disposal was still in preparation by the Great Ouse River Authority, but it is expected that it will be submitted to the Department of the Environment for observation and Grant application in 1972.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The collection generally was carried out satisfactorily, but we were still handicapped on Bank Holidays and holidays. We had no control over the opening of the tip and had little standby facilities either in vehicles or manpower. Drastic amendments will have to be carried out to maintain the collection, in view of development.

Plastic bin liners have been introduced on some Council Estates, which has eased the situation a little.

SWIMMING POOLS

The swimming pool continues to be used a great deal, even by people from towns many miles away. It is a great pity that the pool was not made bigger when constructed, as it is certain the patronage would have been forthcoming. This, of course, is hind-sight.

Samples of water were taken regularly for bacteriological and chemical analysis, and were found to be satisfactory.

The water in the school learner pools is also examined frequently.

SHOP ACTS

No infringements have been found during the year.

CARAVANS

The caravan site continues to be run very satisfactorily.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No complaints have been received during the year in connection with smoke nuisances.

BED BUGS

No reports of infestation by bed bugs have been received, and no premises found to be infected.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The Contract for the inspection for and destruction of rats and mice was renewed for the year. No complaints of the service have been received.

Number of complaints received and visits made	66

Sixteen treatments were also carried out for the destruction of ants or wasps.

PETROLEUM ACTS

The number of Licences issued during the year was as follows:-

Over 1,000 gallons	...	3
500 – 1,000 gallons	...	5
Under 500 gallons	...	8

All have been checked for compliance with the electrical requirements where electricity was involved.

NOISE ABATEMENT

It has not been necessary to take any formal action for noise abatement during the year.

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

No properties were considered to be dangerous during the year.

GENERAL NUISANCES

In all cases, general nuisances have been abated without the necessity to take formal action.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

Two firms are Registered under the above Act.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The number of premises Registered under the above Act are as follows:-

Offices	...	...	...	56
Retail shops		...	...	70
Wholesale warehouses			...	5
Catering establishments			...	9

HOUSING

(a) NEW HOUSING :

The number of new houses built during the year was as follows :-

Council	...	Nil
Private	...	287

(b) OVERCROWDING :

No cases of overcrowding have been found during the year.

(c) SLUM CLEARANCE :

Number of houses reported unfit	...	22
Number of houses where Demolition Orders were made	...	Nil
Number of houses included in Compulsory Purchase Orders	...	22

(d) GRANTS :

	Standard	*Improvement*
Applications received	1	8
Applications approved	1	7
Applications refused	0	1

INSPECTIONS UNDER FACTORIES ACTS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6		2	Nil	Nil
2. Section 7		20	5	Nil
Total	49	22	5	Nil

Number of cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Over-crowding (S.2)	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other Offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	5	0	0	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MEAT:

The following Table shows the number of animals killed, carcases inspected, and meat condemned at the Abattoir:-

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs and Sows
Number killed	182	0	88	2,417
Number inspected	182	0	88	2,417
(All diseases except tuberculosis) :-				
Whole carcases condemned	2	0	0	22
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	23
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	1.654	—	—	1.861
(Tuberculosis only) :-				
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis :-				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—

During the year a total weight of 2 tons 3 cwts. 7 stns. 7 lbs. of meat and offal was condemned at the Abattoir.

(b) POULTRY :

Number of processing premises within the district	1
Number of visits made ...	75
Number of birds processed during 1971	1,800,000
Type of birds processed ...	hens
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit	0·88
Weight of poultry condemned ...	48,973 lbs.
Number condemned	15,969
Average weight	3·9 lbs.

(c) SHOP INSPECTIONS :

All food shops have been inspected under Food Hygiene Regulations and Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Acts, and the following food has been condemned as unfit :-

Fruit	402	tins
Vegetables	394	tins
Meats	47	tins
Fish	43	tins
Sugar	149	packets
Soft drinks	115	bottles
Soup	72	tins
Cereals	91	packets
Meat (*cooked*)	762	lbs.
Flour	23	packets
Chicken (*cooked*)	154	
Jam	21	jars
Coffee	17	jars
Evaporated milk	50	tins
Miscellaneous	183	items
Frozen foods	4,435	items
Margarine, lard and butter	282	packets
Baby food	17	tins

During the year an investigation was made regarding the date coding of perishable foods. In general, it was found that the roundsmen of the different firms were depended on for correct stock rotation and that the service was satisfactory. Only in one case was it found that a firm was delivering goods after the shelf life had expired according to the Manufacturers code on the packaging. The Manufacturer concerned was contacted and the matter was corrected immediately.

(d) ICE CREAM :

There are seventeen shops registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, and there are no manufacturers.

(e) PROSECUTIONS :

There were no prosecutions during the year.

ABATTOIR

Unfortunately, due to withdrawal of business at the Abattoir, the kill, again, considerably decreased. Business will have to be found elsewhere in the near future to ensure the continuance of this premises. It appears that it could be wise to lease the premises to large meat concerns.

The Ridley Press (St. Ives) Ltd., PE17 4AD